

First Festival Play Proves Popular With Audience in Ashland

Shakespeare's delightful combination of reality and illusion, humans and fairy people, which he named "A Midsummer Night's Dream," opened the 20th anniversary season of the Oregon Shakespearean festival last night in Ashland. Although "Dream" was one of the Bard's earlier plays, and his art had not yet reached the perfection which it later attained, this comedy-fantasy has always been popular with audiences, and proved so again last night.

As befits a fantasy, Director James Sandoe and Douglas Russell, costume designer for the festival, have made "Dream" a beautiful and colorful spectacle. Rich fabrics, enhanced by skillful lighting effects, and imaginative design for the costumes of Oberon, Titania and the fairy court, combine to make this an especially beautiful play.

"Dream" has much pretty verse, which sometimes requires unfamiliar pronunciation for rhyme's sake, but it also has comedy which is downright slapstick. For the most part, Director Sandoe and his cast succeeded in combining these elements of the play in such a fashion that the poetry retains its flavor and effect.

Intelligent Interpretation
The play uses one of Shakespeare's favorite dramatic devices, pairs of confused lovers, to carry along the slight plot. There are three sets of these lovers in "Dream" and these six festival players, all young people, bring charm and intelligent interpretation to their roles. Donald E. Soule plays Theseus, Duke of Athens, and Irene G. Baird is the beautiful Hippolyta, his betrothed. Petite Joan Kugell and Agnes Davis are both delightful in their roles of Hermia and Helena, determined to wed the men of their own choosing and no one else. Bob Stattel is Lysander and Michael F. Kasdan is Demetrius, the moon-

struck young lovers, and both give smooth performances. The cast of the duke's court is completed by Abe Kalish as the master of revels and Hubert Whitfield Jr., as Egeus, father of Hermia.

Richard T. Jones, veteran of much theater work in New York plays Bottom and earned the largest share of audience laughs for his interpretation of this principal role among the "mechanicals." Frank S. Pincock, Jack J. Swanson, John T. McPhee, Brad Curtis and J. Raymond Burgin make up the remainder of this rag-tag-and-bob-tail crew which always amuses audiences wherever seen.

H. Paul Kliss, who never fails to bring to a role the polish which it requires, plays Oberon, king of the fairies. Marjorie Schaffer, a clever and experienced actress, plays Titania, his queen.

Sandoe Praised
Young John S. Sandoe, the director's son and a high school student from Boulder, Colo., is Robin Goodfellow, the mischievous elf who causes trouble between the pairs of lovers. John, small and sprightly, gives a capable performance in this role which taxes the talents of any actor.

Diane Cochran, Susan Leigh Shively, Anne and Jill Sandoe, Karen Cochran, Jean Fitch and Judith Offord complete the fairy court.

James Baker, Clarissa Berning and Martin Bliefernech, singing as a trio, provide vocal background music and other appropriate music for the play was taped. The music used for this production was composed by Herb Greer, talented California actor and musician who wrote the score when the festival produced "Dream" a few years ago.

Because this reviewer is a devoted festival fan and enjoys every single minute of every festival play, it is with reluctance

School Area Joins City of Gold Hill

Gold Hill — About three acres of School District 6C property just west of Gold Hill and south of Old Highway 99 were annexed to Gold Hill recently by city council action.

The district had requested the property be annexed, and no one appeared at a public hearing objecting to the proposal.

The council also has called for bids for an oil mat paving on Sixth ave. between Eighth and 11th sts. The area covers about 1,020 square yards, and bids must be in no later than Aug. 8.

Councilmen will meet with H. S. Unger, soils engineer of the state highway department, and Glenn Roberts, resident highway department engineer of Grants Pass, Wednesday afternoon to consider types of paving suitable for one block of Fourth st. near Gail's market.

Test holes will be dug Wednesday morning, and state engineers are scheduled to survey soil samples and advise Gold Hill officials the most feasible type of surfacing to use.

ABOUT TIME

El Dorado, Kan. — (U.P.) — Engine No. 1 of the El Dorado fire department has just had its first overhauling since it was placed in service in 1922. Last time No. 1 was used in fire-fighting was in 1951.

That this last paragraph is written. But in all honesty it must be added that in our opinion this production of "Midsummer Night's Dream" is somewhat below the level usually attained on the Ashland stage. Our viewpoint is doubtless colored by the fact that we do not always like Shakespearean fantasy—we prefer the histories and tragedies, and by the fact that we seldom respond to heavy comedy as we do to the more subtle variety.

However, "Dream" as staged last night met with favor from the audience and will probably turn out to be a popular play. Shakespeare is always Shakespeare.—O.S.

2 Medford Youths Attending Annual Range Crop Tour

Bruce Boldenow, 1408 Dixie lane, and Don Smith, 1306 South Columbus st., left for Logan valley in Grant county yesterday to take part in a 4-H range crop tour, according to Jean Brooks, county agent for 4-H club work.

The tour is a school for youths interested in ranch life. The boys were chosen through plant identification contests and recognized qualities of leadership or good citizenship. Miss Brooks said. They are sponsored by the Young Farmer's and Stockmen's association.

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climbing, hiking, camping, hunting, fishing and woodsmanship; range improvement; and grass and cattle management.

W. K. Farrell, Grant county extension agent is in charge of the camp. Jackman is chairman

Manpower Sufficient For Ship Repair Jobs

Portland — (U.P.) — Local labor leaders said today there was enough manpower in the Portland area to handle jobs created by Willamette Iron & Steel Company's big conversion job on two ships here.

Bill Way, president of the AFL Central Labor Council, said he had received calls from as far away as Florida, Texas and the plains states from persons seeking work on the two ships. Way said that Portland had a surplus of unemployed workers. Earlier, Al Bird, secretary of the Portland Metal Trades Council, said there were enough workmen to take care of the two ships.

The first of the two vessels to be converted to passenger liners arrived here yesterday.

of the camp planning committee. Other committee members are: Joe Oliver, John Day; Larry Williams, Canyon City; Elgin Cornett, Lakeview; William Currier, Bend; Cliff Windle, Lakeview; Rube Long, Fort Rock; and Don Hedrick, range management agronomist, OSC.

Bruce and Don are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Mel Boldenow and Mr. and Mrs. Alan A. Smith, respectively. They will return to Medford Saturday, Miss Brooks said.

Congress Passes Bill For Roosevelt Memorial

Washington — (U.P.) — Congress has sent to the White House a bill authorizing creation of a commission to plan a suitable memorial to the late President Franklin Roosevelt.

The 12-member commission would be composed of four persons appointed by the president, four senators appointed by the vice-president, and four House members appointed by the speaker.

The commission would be authorized to spend \$10,000 in its work.

Dead line for Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday.

Enemy Aid Charged In Fort Lewis Trial

Fort Lewis — (U.P.) — First Lt. Jefferson D. Erwin, 38, Blanchard, Okla., appeared before a general court martial here today to answer charges of making disloyal statements and aiding the enemy while a prisoner of war in North Korea.

An estimated 80 witnesses, summoned from all parts of the nation, are expected to testify during the trial which may last two weeks or longer.

Erwin enlisted in the Army in 1936. He was captured in North Korea during late 1950 and was released Sept. 4, 1953, in Operation "Big Switch."

Erwin is married and has four

Body of Minister Found at Beaverton

Beaverton — (U.P.) — Three 12-year-old boys yesterday afternoon found the body of the Rev. Horace S. Wiley, who disappeared from his home June 12. The Rev. Wiley was 86 years old. The boys had been playing "war games" in a wood lot in the Cedar Hills recreation area when they made their discovery. The Rev. Wiley was a retired Congregational minister at Cedar Hills.

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — The Hearst Consolidated Publications, Inc., has reported an operating profit of \$3,462,900 for the first half of 1955.

children. He said he was prepared to prove his innocence.

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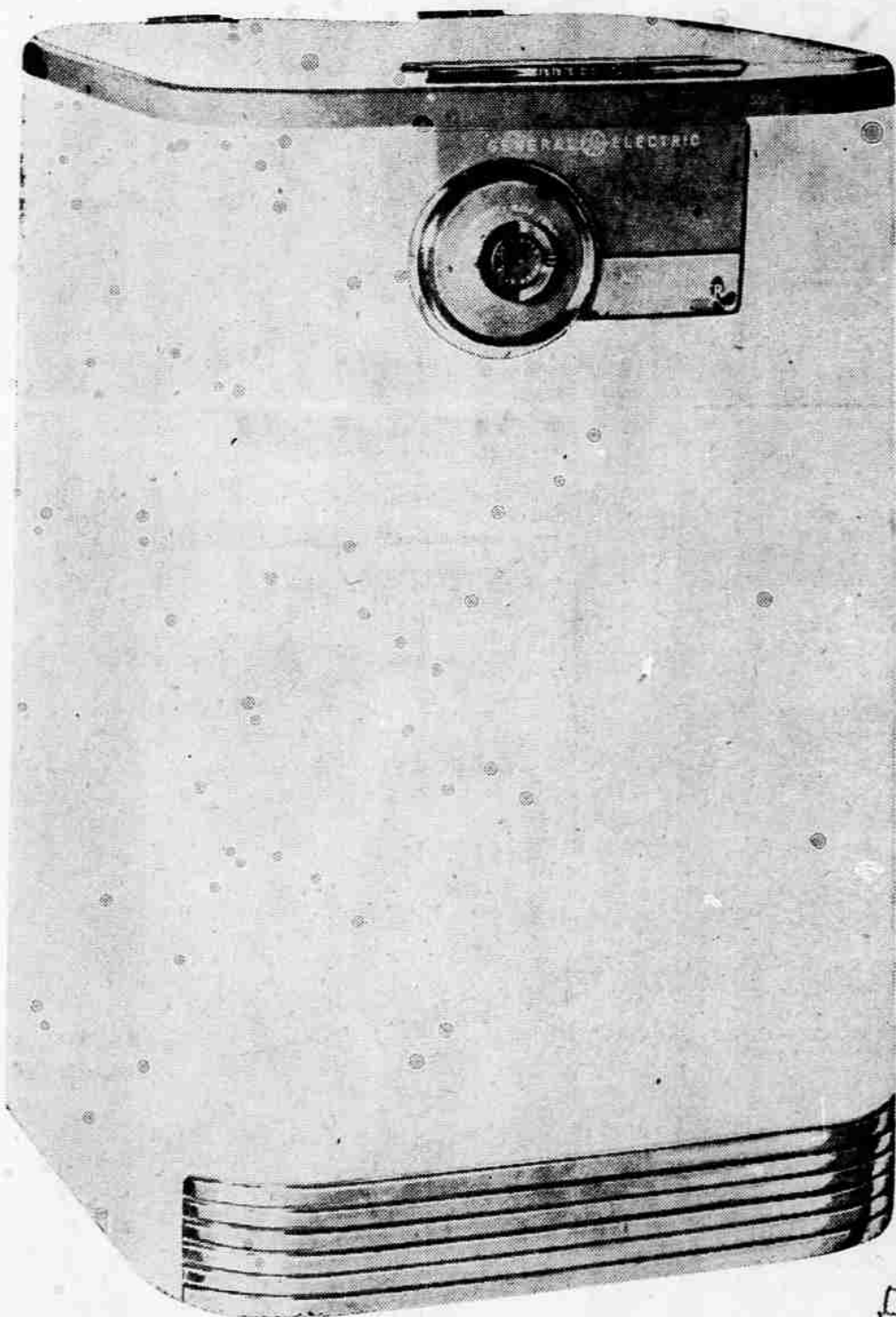
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